

Submission ID: O-0320
Date Received: 22/3/26, 7:30 am
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Submission Topic: Electorate Boundaries
Electoral District: Caloundra; Gaven; Beaudesert (formerly Scenic Rim); Beenleigh (formerly Macalister); Greenbank (formerly Jordan)

Submission:

I am writing to formally lodge an objection to the proposed electoral redistribution as detailed in the March 2026 Report. While I acknowledge the Commission's statutory obligation to balance enrolment quotas, I contend that the proposed boundaries—particularly in the high-growth corridors of Southeast Queensland and the regional hubs of Central Queensland—severely misrepresent residents by prioritizing numerical parity over established "communities of interest," as required under Section 46 of the Electoral Act 1992.

My objection is based on the following key points of misrepresentation:

1. Fragmentation of the Springfield-Greenbank Corridor

The creation of the new district of Springfield and the subsequent renaming and reconfiguration of Jordan into Greenbank significantly fragments a cohesive community of interest. By stripping the "greater Springfield area" (including Brookwater and Augustine Heights) from the newly named Greenbank, the Commission has effectively severed the shared social and economic infrastructure that residents rely upon. These areas share common transport links, school catchments, and local government services within the Ipswich City Council. To split them into disparate districts based on a "numbers-first" approach misrepresents the unified voice of these residents at a state level.

2. Disruption of Coastal and Hinterland Ties (Glass House & Caloundra)

The proposed changes to Glass House and Caloundra, specifically the decision to align the eastern boundary of Glass House wholly to the Bruce Highway, represent a failure to understand local geography. By transferring Beerwah, Landsborough, and Glenview into Glass House, the Commission has ignored the deep-seated cultural and commercial ties these "hinterland gateway" towns have with the Caloundra coastal strip. Residents in these areas do not identify with the rural/mountain communities of the deeper hinterland as much as they do with the service hubs on the coast. Forcing them into a district characterized by Sunshine Coast hinterland communities west of the highway creates an electorate that lacks a unified regional identity.

3. Misrepresentation of Regional Councils (Scenic Rim/Beaudesert)

The renaming of Scenic Rim to Beaudesert and the transfer of Ipswich local government localities (such as Willowbank and Grandchester) to Ipswich West dilutes the representation of the Scenic Rim Regional Council area. While the Commission argues that the name change avoids confusion with the local council, it actually erodes the regional identity that the name "Scenic Rim" has fostered for years. Furthermore, shifting these areas into Ipswich West ignores the rural nature of these communities, grouping them with more urbanized Ipswich residents whose legislative priorities are vastly different.

4. Failure to Address Long-Term Representation

The Report admits that even with these disruptive changes, five districts (including Caloundra) are still projected to exceed the quota by 2032. It is my submission that if the "severe misrepresentation" caused by these boundary shifts does not even resolve the quota issue for a full redistribution cycle, then the social cost to communities is too high. The Commission should prioritize maintaining community cohesion over minor numerical adjustments that will likely be overturned in the next redistribution.

5. Rural Representation (Blackall-Tambo and the Gregory Electorate)

As noted by local councils in Central Queensland, the proposed boundary changes within the Blackall-Tambo LGA fundamentally alter how rural residents are represented. Shifting these communities between large districts like Gregory or Warrego without due regard for the logistical "ways of communication and travel" mentioned in the Act creates an electorate where the Member of Parliament is physically and socially distanced from a significant portion of their constituents.